

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO JIRAIR S.
HOVNANIAN

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jirair S. Hovnanian, a successful family and businessman who started a construction company in New Jersey over 40 years ago.

Mr. Hovnanian is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School in 1952, after emigrating from Kirkuk, Iraq. His company, J.S. Hovnanian & Sons, built more than 6,000 homes, mainly in Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester counties. To his family he was known as a generous nurturer, who pursued the American dream. Mr. Hovnanian started his company in 1964 after splitting with a company he started with his three brothers. In recognition of his success, the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations presented Mr. Hovnanian with the Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 2006 for his numerous contributions to the country.

Mr. Hovnanian's life of service is worthy of admiration, and in addition to being a constituent and colleague, I am proud to call Mr. Hovnanian a friend. Madam Speaker, I commend Mr. Hovnanian today for all that he has done for the First Congressional District of New Jersey and our country.

ON THE FAIR HOME HEALTH CARE
ACT OF 2007

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on June 11 of this year, the Supreme Court decided the case of Long Island Care at Home Ltd. v. Coke. It held that home health care workers employed by third-party agencies are not eligible for the overtime and minimum wage protections provided under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). At issue in the Coke case was a narrow exemption to the FLSA created in 1974 for "companionship services" for babysitters and caretakers for seniors and the disabled.

In 1974, when the exemption was enacted, homecare, like babysitting, was largely provided by family and friends. Today we live in a different world, and caregiving is one of the fastest growing industries in the United States. Today about 2.4 million workers are employed by nursing homes, home health care agencies, assisted living, and other residential facilities.

Low wages and high turnover contribute to the shortage of workers in this fast-growing field. In 2003, direct-care workers earned an average of \$9.20 per hour, significantly less

than the average U.S. wage of \$13.53 for all workers. Nearly 20 percent of all direct-care workers earn annual incomes below the poverty level, and they are twice as likely as other workers to receive food stamps and to lack health insurance. In addition, most home health care workers are minority women, likely to be single heads of households.

When Congress created this exemption, it never intended to exclude those workers who were "regular breadwinners," and there is substantial evidence that the exemption was directed to only "casual basis" workers.

The "Fair Home Health Care Act is a narrow bill clarifying that home health care workers are entitled to labor protections under the FLSA so long as they are not employed on a "casual basis."

These workers provide valuable services to our Nation's older Americans and people with disabilities and help them maintain their independence. Currently, 1.3 million Americans require long-term assistance in their home, and this need is expected to double as baby boomers age. Providing workers with FLSA wage protections will not only provide them with a living wage but will help attract workers to this rapidly growing occupation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VOTER
PROTECTION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Voter Protection Act. Unlike most so-called "campaign reform" proposals, the Voter Protection Act enhances fundamental liberties and expands the exchange of political ideas. The Voter Protection Act accomplishes this goal by lowering and standardizing the requirements for, and the time required to get, signatures to qualify a Federal candidate for the ballot. Many states have unfair rules and regulations that make it virtually impossible for minor party and independent candidates to get on the ballot.

I want to make 4 points about this bill. First, it is constitutional. Article I, section 4, explicitly authorizes the U.S. Congress to, "At any time by law make or alter such regulations regarding the manner of holding elections." This is the authority that was used for the Voter Rights Act of 1965.

The second point I would like to make is an issue of fairness. Because so many states require independent candidates to collect an excessive amount of signatures in a short period of time, many individuals are excluded from the ballot. For instance, there has not been one minor party candidate in a regularly scheduled election for the U.S. House of Representatives on the Georgia ballot since 1943, because of Georgia's overly strict ballot access requirements. This is unfair. The Voter Protection Act corrects this.

My third point addresses those who worry about overcrowding on the ballot. In fact, there have been statistical studies made of states that have minimal signature requirements and generous grants of time to collect the signatures. Instead of overcrowding, these states have an average of 3.3 candidates per ballot.

The fourth point that I would like to make is that complying with ballot access rules drains resources from even those minor party candidates able to comply with these onerous rules. This obviously limits the ability of minor party candidates to communicate their message and ideas to the general public. Perhaps the ballot access laws are one reason why voter turnout has been declining over the past few decades. After all, almost 42 percent of eligible voters have either not registered to vote or registered as something other than Democrat or Republican.

The Voter Protection Act is a constitutional way to reform campaign laws to increase voter participation by making the election process fairer and open to new candidates and ideas. I hope all my colleagues will join me in supporting this true campaign reform bill.

IN HONOR OF ANGELICA BERRIE,
FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE
ADLER APHASIA CENTER

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise to join the more than 20,000 families in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area that have been impacted by aphasia, an isolating loss of words, but not intelligence, that often follows stroke or brain injury, in paying tribute to their very own angel, Angelica Berrie.

Angelica is a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Adler Aphasia Center, opened in 2003 in Maywood, New Jersey to provide education, training, advocacy, and research hope to those suffering from aphasia. Since then she has been an active member of the Board. Angelica is also a driving force behind a number of other charitable organizations: the Board Chair for Gilda's Club Worldwide, a free cancer support community; Board Chair for the Center for Inter-Religious Understanding; and a Board member of American Friends of Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. She formerly was a Board member of the Arnold P. Gold Foundation for Humanism in Medicine and a former member of Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons' Diabetes Advisory Committee. Her well-rounded pursuits bring hope and help to so many people in North Jersey and, indeed, around the world.

Her late husband, Russ, founded the world renowned gift company, Russ Berrie and Company. His philanthropic gifts live on

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

through the Russell Berrie Foundation, which Angelica serves as President. Amongst its many accomplishments, the Foundation has created the Naomi Berrie Diabetes Center at New York Presbyterian Hospital, the Berrie Fellows Program for community leadership, the Berrie Humanistic Care Center at Englewood Hospital, and the Berrie Performing Arts Center at Ramapo College.

Angelica has been a generous benefactor, a compassionate voice, and a dedicated advocate for so many. In her lifetime, she has touched a million lives in overwhelmingly positive ways. Tonight the Adler Aphasia Center is honoring Angelica Berrie for her service to her fellow man, and I join them in commending her for giving so much of herself to make the world around her a better place.

A TRIBUTE TO JIMMY FIFIS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jimmy Fifis, a family man and successful business owner of Ponzio's Restaurant in Cherry Hill. Mr. Fifis recently passed away and his restaurant, Ponzio's, was widely regarded as a Southern New Jersey dining tradition.

Born on the Greek Island of Andros in 1939, Mr. Fifis immigrated to Southern New Jersey in 1966. He began as a dishwasher in a restaurant owned by his two brothers and rose through the ranks to become the owner and operator of Ponzio's. Mr. Fifis has three sons who currently run the family business, which serves 10 to 12 thousand loyal customers per week. Mr. Fifis was loved and respected by all of his employees for his willingness to do any task, whether it was peeling potatoes or managing the restaurant.

Madam Speaker, I commend Mr. Fifis today for all he has done for The First Congressional District of New Jersey and our country. Mr. Fifis's presence will surely be missed at Ponzio's and throughout the entire Southern New Jersey community. In addition to being a constituent, I am proud to call Mr. Fifis a friend.

EXPANDING AMERICAN HOMEOWNERSHIP ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1852) to modernize and update the National Housing Act and enable the Federal Housing Administration to use risk-based pricing to more effectively reach underserved borrowers, and for other purposes:

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of this bill, which will help hundreds of thousands of families realize the American Dream of homeownership. This bill helps protect those vulnerable to unscrupulous

subprime lending, and helps those who are currently struggling to make their payments by refinancing their loans at a more affordable rate.

It is not right for anyone to be struggling to meet his or her mortgage payments due to the unfair lending practices of predatory lenders. Putting lower-income families on the path to homeownership helps them become more financially solvent, and helps them have more of a stake in the health of their community. Homeownership leads to healthy families, healthy communities, and rosier financial situations for all.

I also applaud the passage of an amendment introduced by Chairman FRANK that will help more families, in my district specifically, afford homes. This amendment raises the Federal Housing Administration's single-family loan limits so that lower-income families are not barred from buying homes in the higher-cost markets where they may work. Why should a firefighter who works in my district be forced to commute a long way to her or his home instead of buying an affordable home near the fire station? This amendment will allow potential residents of high-price home markets to afford homes.

This is a good bill that will help America's families in numerous ways. I thank my colleague MAXINE WATERS for introducing it and look forward to benefits it will bring to the hard-working families in my district.

INTRODUCING THE TELEVISION CONSUMER FREEDOM ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Television Consumer Freedom Act, legislation repealing regulations that interfere with a consumer's ability to obtain desired television programming. The Television Consumer Freedom Act also repeals federal regulations that would increase the cost of a television.

My office has received numerous calls from rural satellite and cable TV customers who are upset because their satellite or cable service providers have informed them that they will lose access to certain network and cable programming. The reason my constituents cannot obtain their desired satellite and cable services is that the satellite and cable "marketplace" is fraught with government interventionism at every level. Local governments have historically granted cable companies franchises of monopoly privilege. Government has previously intervened to invalidate "exclusive dealings" contracts between private parties, namely cable service providers and program creators, and has most recently imposed price controls. The Library of Congress has even been delegated the power to determine prices at which program suppliers must make their programs available to cable and satellite programming service providers.

It is, of course, within the constitutionally enumerated powers of Congress to "promote the progress of Science and Useful Arts by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the Exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries." However, operating

a clearing-house for the subsequent transfer of such property rights in the name of setting a just price or "instilling competition" via "central planning" seems to be neither economically prudent nor justifiable under this enumerated power. This process is one best reserved to the competitive marketplace.

It is impossible for the government to set the just price for satellite programming. Overregulation of the cable industry has resulted in competition among service providers for government privilege rather than free market competition among providers to offer a better product at a lower price. While federal regulation does leave satellite programming service providers free to bypass the governmental royalty distribution scheme and negotiate directly with owners of programming for program rights, there is a federal prohibition on satellite service providers making local network affiliates' programs available to nearby satellite subscribers. This bill repeals that federal prohibition so satellite service providers may freely negotiate with program owners for programming desired by satellite service subscribers. Technology is now available by which viewers could view network programs via satellite as presented by their nearest network affiliate. This market-generated technology will remove a major stumbling block to negotiations that should currently be taking place between network program owners and satellite service providers.

This bill also repeals Federal laws that force cable companies to carry certain programs. These Federal "must carry" mandates deny cable companies the ability to provide the programming their customers' desire. Decisions about what programming to carry on a cable system should be made by consumers, not Federal bureaucrats.

The Television Consumer Freedom Act also repeals Federal regulations that mandate that all TVs sold in the United States contain "digital technology." In complete disregard of all free market and constitutional principles, the FCC actually plans to forbid consumers from buying TVs, after 2006, that are not equipped to carry digital broadcasts. According to economist Stephen Moore, this could raise the price of a TV by as much as \$250 dollars. While some television manufacturers and broadcasters may believe they will benefit from this government-imposed price increase, they will actually lose business as consumers refrain from purchasing new TVs because of the government-mandated price increase.

Madam Speaker, the Federal Government should not interfere with a consumer's ability to purchase services such as satellite or cable television in the free market. I therefore urge my colleagues to take a step toward restoring freedom by cosponsoring my Television Consumer Freedom Act.

HONORING ART DONOVAN

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Art Donovan, a member of the National Football League Hall of Fame and American sports hero.

Art Donovan, Jr., was born in the Bronx, New York, on June 5, 1925. He first played

football at Mount St. Michael's High School in the Bronx. The son of a famed boxing referee Arthur Donovan, Sr., who supervised many of professional boxing's Joe Louis's matches, Donovan postponed completing his education and served as an aircraft gunner on the USS *San Jacinto* during World War II, participating in actions in the Pacific Theater.

Art joined professional football as a rookie defensive tackle in 1950 for the Baltimore Colts at the age of 26. The early Colts franchise folded after one season, and Art joined the New York Yanks in 1951, played for the Dallas Texans in 1952 and finally joined the next Colts franchise in 1953. Art became a hugely popular player and was considered one of the best defensive tackles in league history. He was an All-NFL selection five times and played in five Pro Bowls and the world championship for two years. The first Colts player elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Donovan played 12 seasons in the National Football League.

Donovan's Baltimore Colts jersey No. 70 was retired by the team in 1962 and he was elected to the Football Hall of Fame in 1968. Donovan is presently the owner of the Valley Country Club in Baltimore, where my parents were original members. Since 1955, the club has been owned and managed by Art Donovan, his wife, Dorothy, and his family. In 1987, he published his memoir, titled *Fatso*, and has been a frequent and popular guest on talk shows such as the David Letterman Show.

Art has been a friend to me and the entire Ruppertsberger family for many years. After Baltimore Colts football games, I enjoyed going to Valley Country Club and talking football with Art and other Colts players. He would delight us with stories of the Baltimore Colts' championship teams of 1958 and 1959 which featured Hall of Fame defensive end Gino Marchetti, Don Joyce, "Big Daddy" Lipscomb, and Donovan. His sharp wit, contagious laughter, and wonderful stories made all of us his friends. I was amazed at how many Salami sandwiches and kosher hot dogs he could eat in one setting and wash it down with a Schlitz beer. Art played football with his friend George Young, who was my football coach at City College in Baltimore and later went on to become general manager of the New York Giants.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Arthur Donovan, Jr. It has been a great honor for me to call Art my friend. He is a true American sports hero in Maryland, the United States of America, and around the world.

HONORING JUDGE JOSEPH H.
RODRIGUEZ

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Joseph H. Rodriguez for winning the 2007 Judge John F. Gerry Award. The Camden County Bar Association marks Judge Gerry's life for his outstanding humanitarian spirit and integrity, in which Mr. Rodriguez greatly exemplifies.

The Honorable Joseph H. Rodriguez is a Senior Judge of the United States District

Court for the District of New Jersey. He is currently a member of the board of trustees for LaSalle University. In addition, he has been a lecturer for the past 37 years for the Professional Trial Lawyers Seminar. He has been distinguished in an impressive amount of honorary doctor of law degrees from St. Peter's College, 1972; Rutgers University, 1974; Seton Hall University, 1974; Montclair State College, 1985; and Kean College, 1985. Furthermore, for "Distinguished Service in the Cause of Justice," Judge Rodriguez received the Trial Bar Award in 1981 from the Trial Attorneys of New Jersey. In 1985, he accepted the Karen Ann Quinlan Center of Hope Award, "Friend of Hospice." His Honor was named "Man of the Year" in 1992 from the National Hispanic Bar Association. The Camden County Bar Association has previously bestowed another award upon him, the "Peter J. Devine Award" in 1992. Judge Rodriguez was also the recipient of the "Spirit of Edison" Award in 1997 from Thomas Edison State College. The "Medal of Honor Award" was awarded to him in 1999 from the New Jersey State Bar Foundation. That same year, the Association of Federal Bar of State of New Jersey awarded this astounding individual the "William J. Brennan Jr. Award." Recently, in 2001, Judge Rodriguez was named Knight by Order of St. Gregory the Great in receiving the "St. Thomas More Society Award."

Madam Speaker, I commend the Honorable Joseph H. Rodriguez. His dedication and selfless public service to the first district of New Jersey is greatly treasured and respected. I want to sincerely thank Mr. Rodriguez and wish Judge Rodriguez the best in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JANE ADAMS
SPAHR

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rev. Dr. Jane Adams Spahr, a Presbyterian minister committed to justice for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. A self-described lesbian and feminist, Janie is retiring after 33 years.

Born in Pittsburgh, PA, with her twin sister Joanie to Chet and Susanna Adams, Janie was ordained a Presbyterian minister in December 1974, to the Hazelwood Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh. From 1975 to 1979 she served as assistant pastor of First Presbyterian in San Rafael, CA, and in 1979–1980 was the executive director of Oakland Council of Presbyterian Churches where she was encouraged to resign after coming out as a lesbian.

Janie began her "out" liberation work with and for LGBT people as the minister of pastoral care in the Castro area of Metropolitan Community Church in San Francisco from 1980 to 1982. In 1982, this "lesbyterian" founded the Ministry of Light, which later became the Spectrum Center for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns. She served for 10 years as the executive director of Spectrum.

In 1991, Rev. Spahr was called to serve as a copastor at the Downtown United Pres-

byterian Church in Rochester, NY, marking the first time a Presbyterian Church had chosen an "out" pastor. The call, however, was challenged, and the Judicial Commission of the Presbyterian Church refused to allow Rev. Spahr to assume the coposition. In response to the ruling Janie was hired by the Downtown United Presbyterian Church and the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Tiburon, CA, who formed the "That All May Freely Serve" project. She was employed to work within the denomination to end discrimination and increase inclusiveness for all people.

In 2006, Rev. Spahr made national headlines when the Commission of the Presbytery of the Redwoods ruled she acted within her "right of conscience" as a Christian when she performed commitment ceremonies for two lesbian couples. The Presbyterian Church's highest court ruled in 2000 that ministers could "bless" same-sex unions but not preside over them or call them marriages. Janie challenged the church's constitution and won a victory for justice and inclusion, but the battle is not yet over as the Prosecuting Committee has filed an appeal.

During her undergraduate years at Penn State, Jane met Jim Spahr whom she later married and had two sons, Jim and Chet. Jim now fondly refers to Janie as his "wife emerita" and the "sister-in-love" of Jackie Spahr, Jim's partner, and Bill Fenton, her sister Joanie's partner.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Rev. Dr. Jane Adams Spahr whose courageous passion for justice and inclusion for LGBT people has left a legacy that is paving the way to a better future. Rev. Spahr has touched so many lives as a minister, and though she is retiring she will remain a mentor and role model to all.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.
JAMES ROSS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the life of Dr. James Ross of Houlton, ME.

As a distinguished senior member of Family Health International, FHI, Dr. Ross made substantial contributions toward the global fight against HIV and AIDS.

During his time at FHI, Dr. Ross became a mentor to many, and a benefactor to many more.

Before becoming FHI's senior director of Global Operations for the Asia-Pacific Region, Dr. Ross had served as a country program director for nations in both Africa and Asia.

My sincere condolences go to his wife, Cheryl, his son, Benjamin James, and all of those who have also been personally touched by Dr. Ross's life and work.

While he is no longer with us, his memory and his contributions live on. It is with the utmost gratitude that I salute Dr. Ross.

The citizens of the State of Maine, the United States of America and individuals across the globe are extremely fortunate to have had such a wonderful friend and advocate.

EXPANDING AMERICAN
HOMEOWNERSHIP ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1852) to modernize and update the National Housing Act and enable the Federal Housing Administration to use risk-based pricing to more effectively reach underserved borrowers, and for other purposes:

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Chairman, today the House passed H.R. 1852, the "Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007." I am in favor of the bill and am submitting the following letters in support of the legislation for the RECORD: A letter from the National Association of Realtors; a letter from the Mortgage Bankers Association; and a letter from the National Association of Mortgage Brokers.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS,
Washington, DC, September 14, 2007.
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 1.3 million members of the National Association of REALTORS, I urge you to support H.R. 1852, the "Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007", when the bill is considered by the full House. This is an important measure that will allow FHA to function in the 21st century. Equally important and worthy of your strongest support is an amendment to be offered by Representatives Barney Frank (D-MA), Gary Miller (R-CA) and Dennis Cardoza (D-CA) that is vital to improving the stability of mortgage markets, a critical component of our national economy.

The Frank/Miller/Cardoza amendment would increase the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loan limits beyond the language originally included in H.R. 1852. Such an increase is now needed in light of the significant housing and mortgage market turmoil that has severely limited the ability of families to refinance a problematic existing loan or, alternatively, purchase a home in a high cost market with a safe and affordable mortgage.

As you well know, many American homeowners now have mortgages with payments that will soon increase dramatically, putting them at risk of foreclosure. Raising the FHA loan limits will provide many of these homeowners living in the nation's high housing cost markets with a safe FHA loan alternative. In addition, with the even more recent tightening of the jumbo market, many homebuyers may not be able to find a safe, affordable financing option without an increase in the FHA loan limits.

Although the underlying bill would increase the loan limits, we strongly believe that the Frank/Miller/Cardoza amendment is needed to effect real change. H.R. 1852 creates a new loan ceiling of \$417,000. Many markets are significantly higher than this limit. Median home prices of communities in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, California, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania are already far above this limit. The Frank/Miller/Cardoza amendment creates geographic fairness by raising the loan limit to 125% of the area median home price. Under the amendment working families in Newark, NJ can buy a home for \$512,000, and families in Los Angeles, CA can buy homes for \$650,000—both median price homes for their area.

FHA reform is needed now, more than ever. Please vote for H.R. 1852 and the Frank/Mil-

ler/Cardoza amendment when these measures come to the Floor.

Thank you,

PAT V. COMBS,

*2007 President,**National Association of Realtors.*

MORTGAGE BANKERS ASSOCIATION,

Washington, DC, September 17, 2007.

Hon. STENY H. HOYER,

Majority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Republican Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADER HOYER AND LEADER BOEHNER: On behalf of the Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA), I am writing to express our strong support for H.R. 1852, the Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007, and strongly urge Members of the House of Representatives to support the legislation when it comes to the House floor. At the same time, MBA is also concerned about a provision that would liberalize the requirements for mortgage broker participation in FHA, as well as certain amendments that may be offered. Passage of a strong and workable FHA bill is critical in addressing the current market situation and consumer needs.

H.R. 1852, introduced by Representative Maxine Waters, passed the Committee on Financial Services by a bipartisan vote of 45-19 on May 3, 2007. The legislation has been under consideration for several years now, and similar legislation passed the House of Representatives in 2006 by a vote of 415-7.

The Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007 would achieve several key public policy goals. The bill will make it easier for first-time homebuyers and lower-income Americans to purchase a home by modernizing the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and giving it the ability to offer viable products in today's changing mortgage market. The bill ensures investment in FHA's personnel and technology, bringing this important mortgage insurer into the 21st century.

The bill would increase FHA's loan limits, allowing FHA-insured lending in states and communities where today's housing prices make FHA mortgage products unavailable to borrowers. The bill also gives FHA's management additional flexibility to offer new mortgage products without getting Congress' blessing each time. Since FHA's programs actually generate more funds for the U.S. Treasury than it pays out in claims and administrative costs, the bill would establish that a portion of the excess funds be put aside for new affordable housing production through an affordable housing trust fund, which we support.

Since this bill last passed the House in 2006, we have seen significant disruptions in the nation's housing market. In particular, many homeowners are finding themselves in distress, unable to pay their adjustable rate mortgages after interest rates have steadily increased and home values have declined in some areas. FHA can be an important tool to help these consumers get out of financial trouble. If this bill should become law, many more borrowers will be able to use FHA's products to avoid foreclosure.

A significant area of concern we continue to have with this legislation deals with how mortgage brokers will qualify to sell FHA-insured products. Under current guidelines, all mortgage brokers and loan correspondents must submit audited financial statements that are in accordance with the Government Accountability Office's Government Auditing Standards. HUD program managers, in turn, use these audits to determine if these entities use internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that FHA require-

ments are followed, expend federal funds properly with supporting documentation and meet fair housing and nondiscrimination requirements. At a time of rising defaults, it is critical to both FHA and its customers that adequate supervisory processes remain in place. In Committee, MBA opposed the bill's provisions that would eliminate this important audit requirement and thereby weaken the FHA's safety and soundness. We hope to continue to work with the Committee and the House on this issue as the bill moves through the legislative process.

We understand that a series of amendments to the legislation may be made in order. We believe that it would be unwise to require counseling for borrowers as provided for in an amendment filed by Representative Patrick Tiberi. First, it is expensive, and for many homebuyers, completely unnecessary. Second, many real estate agents and mortgage brokers will push homebuyers away from an FHA product if a home purchase could fall through because the potential buyer has to wait several weeks or more to arrange a counseling session. Counseling should be targeted to those who need it, and we believe the bill, as written, strikes the right balance in giving the HUD Secretary significant tools to help consumers get the counseling they need. The point of this bill is to empower FHA to make its products more useful to the market and borrowers. Mandating counseling would have the opposite effect.

Another possible amendment, expected to be offered by Financial Services Chairman Barney Frank, Representative Gary Miller and Representative Dennis Cardoza, would increase the FHA loan limit to a level above the GSE conforming loan limit in certain high-cost areas. We believe that FHA should continue to focus on helping low- and moderate-income borrowers purchase or refinance housing. Without further study on the impacts of such a change, we do not believe it would be wise to allow FHA loan limits to exceed GSE conforming loan limits.

Finally, an amendment may be proposed that would allow qualified downpayment assistance programs to continue if certain conditions are met. Downpayment assistance programs are an important part of the FHA program, but some changes are needed to avoid continued abuses. We believe that the changes made by Representative Gary Miller's amendment would mark a significant improvement in how these programs operate.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views on this legislation. We urge Members of the House of Representatives to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

JOHN M. ROBBINS, CMB,
*MBA Chairman.*NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
MORTGAGE BROKERS,*September 17, 2007.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On Tuesday, the United States House of Representatives will vote on H.R. 1852, the "Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007" introduced by Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA) and House Financial Services Committee Chairman Barney Frank (D-MA). On behalf of the National Association of Mortgage Brokers (NAMB), its 49 state affiliates, 25,000 members/member companies, and hundreds of thousands of mortgage brokers, I respectfully urge you to support passage of this much-needed legislation to help the millions of Americans who are in need of safe and affordable mortgage products.

The need to reform and enhance the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) is critical so that it can respond adequately to the needs of consumers and the market today. H.R. 1852 includes provisions that will:

Strengthen the FHA program by raising FHA mortgage limits nationwide in all communities, but especially in high-cost areas where consumers are most often in need of affordable mortgage financing options;

Allow FHA to offer flexible down payment terms and simplify the down payment process to aid homebuyers in overcoming a significant barrier to homeownership;

Allow FHA to price loans according to a borrower's risk;

Update FHA's successful reverse mortgage program; and

Increase the availability of FHA loan products to first-time, minority and low- to moderate income homebuyers by expanding the distribution channels that serve FHA.

NAMB supports H.R. 1852 as approved by the House Financial Services Committee earlier this year, but also favors a further increase in the FHA loan limits as proposed by an amendment expected to be offered by Chairman Frank (D-MA) and Reps. Miller (R-CA) and Cardoza (D-CA). Unfortunately, because FHA has been driven from those parts of the country where consumers are most in need of affordable financing, such as California, millions of borrowers have been forced to turn to high-cost financing and other non-traditional loan products. I urge you to support the bi-partisan amendment offered that calls for a further increase in FHA loan limits from \$417,000 to \$500,000, in order to better accommodate those borrowers living in high-cost areas of the country.

NAMB believes the reforms contained in H.R. 1852 will provide long-overdue modernization to the FHA, which will revitalize and increase participation in the FHA program. Please take this opportunity to restore confidence and stability in the mortgage market and once again make FHA loans a real choice for borrowers by voting in support of H.R. 1852.

Sincerely,

GEORGE HANZIMANOLIS, CRMS,
President of NAMB.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I was meeting with constituents and was detained from voting during Thursday, September 6, 2007. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on the following rollcall vote: rollcall 876.

TRIBUTE TO THE TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO, CALIFORNIA

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with pride today to invite you to join me in congratulating the Town of San Anselmo, California, on its official centennial.

This charming town in one of the most beautiful counties in California derived its name from the Mexican designation of the area as La Laguna y Cañada de Anselm, or the Waters and Valley of Anselm—after a Miwok Indian who was buried there. His tribe, the Coastal Miwoks, inhabited the land for

thousands of years before Mexicans and Europeans arrived, surviving on the bounty of its creeks and forests.

Since the early 19th century when it was formally established as a land grant under the Mexican government, the town has served as a transportation hub for the area and an intersection between rural West Marin and the county's municipal centers to the east. To this day, in fact, downtown San Anselmo is still referred to as The Hub.

After California became the 31st of the United States of America, in 1850, the southern part of town including The Hub, was purchased from its Mexican owners by James Ross, whose descendants still live and work there. Since then, San Anselmo has grown to become everything that epitomizes small-town America—welcoming to strangers, benevolent to neighbors, supportive to businesses and education, and environmentally friendly to the habitat.

For example, when the Transcendental poet Ralph Waldo Emerson visited his niece in San Anselmo in 1871, he noticed of her husband's acreage that "Three or four wild deer still feed on his land, and now and then come near the house. The trees of his wood were almost all new to us—live-oak, madrona, redwood, and other pines than ours; and our garden flowers wild in all the fields." Even now, the wild deer still come to San Anselmo to feed in the gardens under the diverse arbors, verdant and prolific in what is one of Marin County's largest watersheds.

Indeed, San Anselmo retained its pastoral quality even after the North Pacific Coast Railroad laid rails through the town beginning in 1874. Already a transportation hub, the town went on the map as Junction, California. The coming of the industrial age did not, however, despoil the area's beauty.

But San Anselmo is not just another idyllic town. Since 1892, it has been the home of the San Francisco Theological Seminary, which is known because of its architecture as San Anselmo's "castle in the sky." With the establishment of this key Presbyterian institution, the town began to grow, and grew even more after the San Francisco earthquake of 1906, when refugees from the City's North Beach transplanted their homes to the hills around San Anselmo, planted grapevines and gave the neighborhood the nickname "Little Italy."

The next year, the town incorporated under the name Junction.

Another institution that establishes San Anselmo as more than just a pretty place is the Carnegie Library, built in 1915. A gift of Andrew Carnegie, the "patron saint of libraries," it is one of only 1,940 such libraries in the nation. Its Spanish revival style building still serves this town where more than 96 percent of the adult population have earned a high school diploma, and 60 percent have one or more college degrees.

With the opening of the Golden Gate Bridge in 1937, many of those who had previously come to San Anselmo only to escape the cold San Francisco summers decided to make the town their permanent home. Schools and churches replaced ranch and farm land, and by 1974, when it officially became the Town of San Anselmo, thousands of families called it home.

But San Anselmo is not just a propitious town for its residents. It welcomes visitors with equal neighborliness. In fact, Marin County

newspaper readers recently chose San Anselmo as the "Best town other than your own." A town without a single shopping mall, San Anselmo has also been voted "Best in the West" by Sunset magazine for antiques, offered for sale in 130 boutiques that line the two main streets of this small town.

Despite the routine flooding of San Anselmo Creek, the weather in San Anselmo is "nearly perfect," says Connie Rodgers, president of the San Anselmo Chamber of Commerce. She adds that "You can't find a better place to live in the whole United States."

Indeed, where else can you find less than three square miles containing a castle, a creek, a series of world-class antique shops and five of the top 100 Bay Area restaurants?

Madam Speaker, I offer my congratulations to San Anselmo on its first 100 years and a wish for many happy returns of the occasion.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

This memorial stands as one of the finest tributes to a generation of veterans our country has ever created.

No person who has visited the memorial has been left untouched by the experience. It is an eloquent statement of gratitude to a generation of men and women who wore our country's uniform during a time of angst and uncertainty.

As the memorial's designer, Maya Ying Lin, stated ". . . this memorial is for those who have died, and for us to remember them." The Wall of Names, with 58,249 names inscribed on its face, is truly a place where all Americans—regardless of background, age, and personal beliefs—are able to come together to honor and remember those who served.

Today, with this resolution, the House of Representatives once again pays tribute to those who served our Nation and remembers their sacrifice.

HONORING FATHER ROBERT DONLAN'S 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Reverend Robert R. Donlan, Pastor at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Brooksville, Florida, on the 40th anniversary of his ordination into the priesthood. For the past 40 years, Father Donlan has served the Catholic Church with honor and distinction, all in the name of Jesus Christ.

Born in Amsterdam, New York, Father Donlan has dedicated his life to serving the

Church. Earning his B.A. at Kilroe Seminary of the Sacred Heart in Honesdale, Pennsylvania, his Bachelor of Sacred Theology Degree from Sacred Heart Monastery in Hales Corners, Wisconsin, and his Masters in Religious Education from the University of Detroit, Father Donlan spent an early part of his career as Pastor of St. Margaret Mary Church in Detroit, Michigan. He then moved on to serve the Church in Mississippi and Florida, eventually moving to Brooksville, Florida where he has been Pastor at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Brooksville for the past 14 years.

Father Donlan joined St. Anthony's Parish following service as the Parochial Administrator at St. Jerome Church in Indian Rocks Beach, Florida. Loved by his parishioners from throughout Hernando County, Father Donlan has fostered a spirit of unity throughout the Church with his good deeds and kind words. In fact, since his appointment 14 years ago, the number of registered families in the parish has grown to more than one thousand three hundred, including this member of Congress and her husband. Having listened to his homilies for many years, I can tell you that he preaches from the heart and speaks the true word of Jesus Christ.

In addition to his decades of service, Father Donlan has been very involved in local church and civic organizations. This volunteerism includes service as the Secretary and Treasurer of the Brooksville Ministerial Association for 10 years, the Vicar Forane of the Hernando Deanery of Catholic Churches, and volunteer efforts at area nursing homes and health care facilities.

For the past 40 years, Father Donlan has tended to the needs of his congregation. As a part of his ministry, he has gone above and beyond the call of duty to help his Church grow and prosper. One example of his devotion was the creation of a Wailing Wall in the Church. Designed after the original Western Wall of the old temple in Jerusalem, the wall is designed to receive petitions that are burned each month during the celebration of Mass.

Madam Speaker, Father Donlan's dedication to the Lord and to the Catholic Church has served as an inspiration to thousands throughout Hernando County. His ministry has touched the hearts of many, and the Church has continued to grow under his leadership. Father Donlan is to be commended for his years of service, his commitment to the Lord, and for serving the men and women who rely on his counsel and wisdom. Father Donlan is a shining example of the good that serving Jesus Christ can bring to our friends and families, and he is to be commended on the 40th anniversary of his ordination into the Catholic Church.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on September 18, 2007, I inadvertently missed the vote on Passage of H.R. 1852, The Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007, rollcall vote 876. It was my strong intention to vote "aye" on Passage.

PATENT REFORM ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1908) to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform:

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Chairman, for purposes of the record, I would like to register my opposition to H.R. 1908, the Patent Reform Act of 2007.

I would like the record to further reflect that while I do support comprehensive patent reform, I cannot support legislation that so dramatically picks winners and losers.

My opposition to H.R. 1908, the Patent Reform Act of 2007, stems from concerns raised that this legislation could actually undermine the value of patents, as well as innovative work conducted by universities, biotech facilities, and other companies.

Many Missourians understand that research could be impeded by the passage of this bill.

Indeed, a growing number of researchers and businesses agree that greater protections need to be put in place, but not in a way that risks existing patents or denies access for judicial relief.

A strict one size fits all approach to this problem creates more problems than it cures, and puts companies in certain industries at an unfair disadvantage.

I hope that as this bill moves through the legislative process, the disadvantages placed on certain industries are remedied, and that we have a patent reform bill that protects all U.S. businesses.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night, September 18, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on approving the Journal, on ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 650, and H. Res. 650 and wish the RECORD to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 870 on approving the Journal, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 871 on ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 650, providing for consideration of H.R. 1852, Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 872 on H. Res. 650, Providing for consideration of H.R. 1852, Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007, I would have voted "nay."

TRIBUTE TO THE CUSIMANO FAMILY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Cusimano family as they and our community gather this month to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary.

The Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary was founded in 1957 by Joseph and Sue Cusimano in Mountain View, California. Joseph and Sue devoted their entire lives to the work of their business, and to the service of their community. For 50 years, Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary has maintained a family-oriented approach to providing mortuary services to the community—a commitment that has been carried on by their children. In 1980, in recognition of the exemplary professional standards and extensive community involvement, the mortuary was invited to join the distinguished association of Selected Independent Funeral Homes.

Joseph and Sue lived their broad and continuing commitment to the service of their community—ranging from the Mortuary's 50-year sponsorship of the local Babe Ruth Little League team to Joseph's service as the Mayor of Mountain View. The generosity of the Cusimanos also extended beyond our community to others in need, as exemplified by their gift of children's caskets to the victims of the 1995 Oklahoma City tragedy.

Joseph and Sue bequeathed both their business and their sense of responsibility to their children. The Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary is now managed by Matthew and Sherri, who have maintained the spirit of service and community participation that began with their parents 50 years ago. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate the Cusimano family as they celebrate this special anniversary.

IN HONOR OF MR. DENNIS PLANN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished career of Dennis Plann. After decades of dedication to the agriculture industry serving the Fresno County Department of Agriculture, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner Dennis Plann decided to retire in August of 2007.

A native of California's Central Valley, Dennis attended Fresno State University. While attending school, Dennis harvested oat, hay, cotton and alfalfa on 90 acres of his family's land. After graduation, Dennis quickly found work as an agricultural inspector, and through this experience he continued to move up the ladder in his career.

During his tenure at the Fresno County Department of Agriculture, Dennis worked to ensure regulations were being followed, helped farmers to handle crises effectively, and interacted with the media extensively. The Central Valley as well as the entire California agricultural community benefited from Mr.

Plann's service and appreciated his knowledge in the field. His dedication to his work and to his community is to be commended.

Dennis was also instrumental in the development of the Fresno County hazardous material spill response plan and was the primary responder for the Department of Agriculture. His drive, dedication and attention to detail were certainly an asset to the county.

Throughout his career in agriculture, Dennis Plann has proven to be a highly effective professional who was always committed to excellence in his work and service to others. As he gets ready to spend much more time with his wife Connie and enjoy other relaxing activities, I wish him good health and a happy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER JOHN BOGA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Officer John Boga on his retirement from the City of Newark, California, after serving over 20 years as a police officer and sergeant and over 25 years as a member of the Newark Police Department.

Officer Boga began his career with the Newark Police Department as a reserve police officer in April 1982 and served in this capacity until his promotion to the rank of police officer on June 1, 1987.

Officer Boga was most recently assigned to his third term as the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Officer. As a D.A.R.E. Officer, Boga has taught a structured D.A.R.E. curriculum to the students in various grades of the eight public elementary schools and one private elementary school in Newark. In 2001, he also became a Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) instructor, which he also taught at the elementary school level.

In addition to his D.A.R.E. and G.R.E.A.T. duties, Officer Boga has also served as an executive board member of the California D.A.R.E. Officers Association, a member of the hostage negotiation and trauma support teams, a member of the California Association of Hostage Negotiators, field training officer, and citizen police academy instructor. He had also held numerous assignments during his tenure including patrol officer, school resource officer, tri-city gang task force officer, Alameda County gang task force officer, reserve coordinator, and first aid/CPR instructor.

Officer Boga has been recognized with many awards, the most recent being the police department's Distinguished Service Medal for his devotion to the department, the community, and the youth in Newark. He was also chosen to become the department's Police Officer of the Year in 1992. Officer Boga was selected as the 2006 California D.A.R.E. Officer of the Year by the members of the California D.A.R.E. Officers Association for his hard work and dedication to the D.A.R.E. program. He was also named the City of Newark Employee of the Year for 2005 for his commitment to the city and for all of his hard work and positive attitude.

I join the Newark Police Department in thanking Officer John Boga for his years of commendable service and devotion to the City of Newark and the community.

515TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION OF WWII

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I wish to extend my appreciation to the 515th Field Artillery Battalion of World War II as they reunite for the first time since the end of the war. These men of the 515th represent the best of the greatest generation.

Composed of officers and enlisted men from various units around the United States, the 515th was trained to operate the 155mm "Long Tom" guns. From the time that it fired its first rounds in combat until nearly the end of the war, the unit was constantly on the move and involved in combat, supporting various units. Moving steadily northward, the unit finally crossed the Rhine River on a heavy pontoon bridge at Worms, Germany. From here the battalion moved south to the area of Heidelberg and then north again toward the area of Birkenfeld. It was reported that during the month of March the battalion traveled a distance of 557 miles, 153 miles of which were during combat. The 515th fired 3,122 rounds of ammunition during this time.

The 515th rarely stayed in any one place for more than a day or two. Movement was not fast and generally cumbersome since the tractors pulling the "Long Toms" moved at only about 30 miles per hour. Once an area was designated it would sometimes take as much as a day to set up all three gun batteries, coordinate their positions and lay communication lines between the individual guns and battery commands, and then from the battery commands to Headquarters. These men met monumental challenges every day, and courageously faced their obstacles and overcame them.

The 515th Field Artillery Battalion will be remembered for their pivotal role in the United States achieving victory in World War II. These soldiers gave their heart and soul for our country. Their efforts will never be forgotten and their actions will always be remembered. And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN HESTIR

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Arkansan and a fine citizen of DeWitt, Arkansas. I am proud to recognize Dr. John Hestir in the United States Congress for his 50 years of service as the leading medical professional in DeWitt, Arkansas. He has made numerous invaluable contributions to his community, his state and our Nation.

Originally from Des Arc, Arkansas, John Hestir attended University of Arkansas and later the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas for graduate school. While attending school in Texas, he accepted an offer to serve as the primary doctor of DeWitt, Arkansas.

When Hestir first moved to the small town, DeWitt had limited capacity for medical serv-

ices. The town had no hospital or ambulance and the closest emergency medical facility was a 12 bed hospital in Stuttgart, which is over a half an hour away by car. However, the sparse amenities did not discourage Hestir from providing the citizens of DeWitt the medical care they needed. With some perseverance and ingenuity Dr. Hestir engineered miracles that went beyond medicine.

Dr. Hestir knew that in order for him to better serve the people of DeWitt he needed an improved medical facility. In 1962, Hestir convinced the mayor, Jim Colvert, to apply for a government grant to build an 18 bed hospital. Today, the hospital has been expanded to a 35 bed facility, serving DeWitt and the surrounding areas. Hospital capacity is not the only expansion happening in DeWitt. With this new hospital and other improved medical care, people are living much longer. When Dr. Hestir first arrived in DeWitt, the life expectancy was 58 for men and 62 for women, today the average stands at 78 for men and 84 for women.

Dr. Hestir embodies the old fashion values of service, leadership and commitment to his community that have made our State and our Nation great. He has dedicated his life to serving the people of DeWitt as a leader in both his profession and his community. On behalf of the United States Congress, I extend congratulations and best wishes to my good friend Dr. John Hestir, for 50 years of outstanding personal and professional achievements.

STATEMENT ON INTRODUCTION OF THE COST OF GOVERNMENT AWARENESS ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Cost of Government Awareness Act, which repeals one of the most deceptive practices of the federal government—income tax withholding. Withholding keeps many Americans ignorant about the true size of the federal tax burden. Withholding is also the reason millions of Americans overpay their income taxes, granting the United States Government interest-free loans. Many of these taxpayers are further misled into thinking the U.S. Government is acting benevolently when they receive "refunds" of money improperly taken from them through withholding!

Collecting taxes via withholding damages the economy because it forces every business in America to waste valuable resources complying with the withholding tax requirements. The Internal Revenue Service is so fanatical about forcing employers to act as de facto federal agents that it once confiscated the assets of a church because the church refused to violate the church's religious beliefs by acting as a tax collector. The IRS sent armed federal agents in this house of worship, even though the church's employees regularly paid taxes.

When the United States Government implemented withholding in 1943, it promised the American people that this would be a "temporary" measure. I am sure my colleagues agree that 64 years is a sufficient lifespan for any "temporary" measure. It is time to end the deceptive practice of withholding and empower taxpayers to reflect upon their tax bill

each month and ask, "What are they getting for their money." An honest answer to that question may lead to a groundswell for true tax reform.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to let the American people know their tax burden by cosponsoring the Cost of Government Awareness Act.

ENDO PHARMACEUTICALS INC.
10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Endo Pharmaceuticals Inc., on the occasion of the company's 10 Year Anniversary. Endo, whose corporate headquarters are located in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, in the heart of the 7th Congressional District, is an American success story on many important levels.

The company's roots as a pharmaceutical enterprise actually run quite deep, dating back to the 1920s when a family-run pharmaceutical business named Intravenous Products of America was established in New York. Its name was changed to Endo Products in 1935. In 1969 E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company (DuPont) acquired since renamed Endo Labs. In the early 1990s DuPont, in a joint venture with Merck and Company, formed DuPont Merck Pharmaceuticals, and named its generics business Endo Laboratories LLC.

In 1997, Endo Pharmaceuticals, Inc., an independent company, was formed through the vision of former DuPont Merck executives led by Carol Ammon and Mariann MacDonald. The vision they shared was to create a leading pain management company focused on the needs of patients and physicians. Leaping ten years forward to today, it is plain to see that Endo has already accomplished its initial goal and is looking toward new horizons, and bolder challenges.

Endo's initial success came on the heels of meeting physician and patient pain management needs by introducing new dosage strengths of its well-known pain reliever PERCOCET®, and in-licensing LIDODERM®, the first FDA-approved topical patch for pain associated with post-herpetic neuralgia, a dreaded complication from shingles.

And recently, Endo launched the newest strong opioid for patients with chronic moderate-to-severe pain, OPANA® ER, together with a comprehensive risk management plan to ensure appropriate physician prescribing and patient education of pain medicines.

As Endo continued to grow throughout the late 1990s and into this decade, the company, with the help of employees at its research and development laboratories in New York, began developing new, novel products, including those for the treatment of acute pain and moderate-to-severe chronic pain. As it did so, Endo also created an internal specialty sales force. By 2003, the company grew to nearly 500 employees. This growth and the company's success in the pharmaceutical industry did not go unnoticed. During that same year, co-founders Carol Ammon and Mariann MacDonald were honored with the Greater Philadelphia Ernst & Young "Entrepreneur of the

Year" award in the Health Sciences category, and Endo was named "Company of the Year" by the Eastern Technology Council.

Endo Pharmaceuticals Inc. has further distinguished itself by being voted one of the "100 Best Corporate Citizens" by Business Ethics Magazine and reaching #35 on Business Weeks' "Hot Growth Companies" list. Endo's mission clearly incorporates a humanitarian as well as a corporate vision. The company contributes to Community Volunteers in Medicine, a Chester County, PA organization that provides health care to people who don't qualify for Medicaid and do not have health care insurance. Endo began contributing to this organization in 2004 at the \$15,000 level and has increased their contribution each year. In addition, the company has given over \$300,000 to the Susan G. Komen Foundation; and been a sponsor of the Komen Pink Tie Ball and Komen Race for the Cure. Also, since 2002, Endo employees have participated in the MS150, a 150 mile bicycle race to raise funds for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Individual pledges, a corporate contribution and matching gift from Carol Ammon, one of Endo's co-founders, also have contributed to this event.

Now in its tenth year, the company employs more than 1,300 individuals in the United States, including laboratories in Westbury, New York, and Boulder, Colorado. Endo's is a highly skilled workforce, as 98 percent of its employees hold a bachelor's degree or higher. The company is further solidifying its presence in Pennsylvania and Chadds Ford, in particular, recently breaking ground on a new 48,600-square-foot building at its headquarters. This new building in Chadds Ford will have space for an additional 175 employees, and is expected to be completed next year.

However, Endo is growing in other areas, too, and positioning itself to be the leading pain company in the world. Endo's President and CEO, Peter Lankau, says the company is indeed focused on the future and continuing to provide patients and physicians with clinically innovative pain therapy products.

Madam Speaker, again, I would like to congratulate Endo Pharmaceuticals Inc., and especially its employees at the Chadds Ford headquarters, for the company's accomplishments. In just ten years Endo has realized the vision of its founders. It is an entrepreneurial success and is recognized as an outstanding corporate citizen. It is now the world leader in developing pain therapy products focused on patients' and physicians' needs. I, for one, look forward to the promise of the next ten years for Endo Pharmaceuticals Inc., and its talented individuals in Chadds Ford and throughout the nation.

FREEDOM FOR LÁZARO
ALEJANDRO GARCÍA FARAH

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Lázaro Alejandro García Farah, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. García Farah is a pro-democracy activist currently imprisoned in the tyrant's gulag be-

cause of his belief in freedom, democracy, and human rights. Unfortunately, because Mr. García Farah has been a supporter of the cause of bringing liberty to an island shackled by a tyrant's brutal machinery of repression, and has attempted to shed light on the vicious crimes committed against the Cuban people, he has been persecuted by the totalitarian regime.

Mr. García Farah's aspirations for freedom and a better future were cut short when he and others attempted to divert a boat, the "Baraguá", in an attempt to escape the suffocating grasp of the maniacal regime that maintains Cuba enchained. On August 4, 1994, Mr. García Farah was arrested and in a sham trial "sentenced" to 25 years confinement in the infernal totalitarian dungeons on charges of "piracy" and attempting to exit the country without "proper permission".

In 1998, Pope John Paul II visited Cuba and brought with him a list of political prisoners for which he asked clemency. The petition was ignored. Mr. García Farah, whose name was on the list, denounced and protested the manner in which the totalitarian regime ignored the Pope's petition. The regime's thugs immediately placed Mr. García Farah into solitary confinement in an attempt to silence his calls for justice.

Mr. García Farah is in constant danger of being placed in solitary confinement while in the gulag, yet he rejects allowing himself to be silenced. In 2000 he refused to participate in political "indoctrination" classes and was consequently denied visitation rights from November 2000 until February 2001. More recently, in a communication with the Cuban Foundation for Human Rights, Mr. García Farah denounced the horrific conditions to which political prisoners are subjected and explained that prisoners are given drinking water infested with parasites and filthy residues and are incessantly denied their rights to correspondence and religious assistance.

Madam Speaker, Lázaro Alejandro García Farah languishes within the confines of hellish squalor and the injustice of the dictatorship's gulag, although he has done nothing other than desire that the long-suffering people of Cuba live in freedom with fundamental human rights and dignity. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Lázaro Alejandro García Farah and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

HONORING CURTIS BAXTER

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to pay tribute to Curtis "Lumpy" Baxter, a much beloved icon of Levittown, Pennsylvania. Over the last year as I traveled to events across Bucks County, it seemed that wherever I went, "Lumpy" would be there, with a big sandwich and an even bigger smile.

Far and wide, "Lumpy" was known for sling-ing the best barbeque around. Madam Speaker, while it may have been the delicious barbeque that won him so many awards, it was his warmth and friendliness that endeared him to thousands. One glimpse of him beaming in front of his trophies would always be

enough to lift my spirits and the spirits of so many others. Madam Speaker, no event at the beautiful Bristol waterfront will ever feel quite complete without his cart and long lines of people waiting for his delicious food.

A devoted grandfather, father, and husband, as well as a member of the Hope Lutheran Church, Lumpy was always someone who put the community first. Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring this kind man, whose big smile and seemingly limitless strength will be loved and remembered in the hearts of many.

HONORING THE CITY OF HUGHSON, CALIFORNIA

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Hughson upon celebrating their 100th Anniversary.

In 1882 Hiram Hughson purchased 1,000 acres in Stanislaus County, in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley. Over the years the Hughson land grew to about 5,000 acres, and small towns were erected all around his parcel. The San Joaquin railroad purchased a piece of the land and built a new railroad station, Hughson Station.

The City of Hughson was founded in 1907 when Hiram Hughson placed his 5,000 acres in the hands of the Hughson Town Company. From there the land was opened up for settlement and this small community became a small town.

The township of Hughson became a city when it was incorporated December 9, 1972. The city has continued to thrive. The city has grown around a strong agriculture center; with orchards of Almonds, Walnuts and Peaches. In the past five years Hughson has grown from 4,920 residents in 2002 to about 6,127 in 2007. However, it is still the smallest city in Stanislaus County. The people of Hughson pride themselves on the small, hometown feel. The city demonstrates its small town pride with the Annual Fruit and Nut Festival. The festival allows the city to come together to showcase their home grown fruits and nuts.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the City of Hughson on 100 years. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Hughson many years of continued growth and success.

HONORING THE NASA SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS AND AEROSPACE ACADEMY (SEMMA)

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I respectfully submit the following resolution, this 19th Day of September, in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF THE NASA SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS AND AEROSPACE ACADEMY (SEMMA) SEPTEMBER 19, 2007

Whereas, the NASA Science, Engineering, Mathematics and Aerospace Academy

(SEMMA) is transforming the lives of historically underserved and underrepresented K-12 students, families and communities across America every day; and in many cases is saving the lives of America's youth by getting them off of the streets and supporting them inside the classroom. As an innovative national program designed to increase the participation and retention of historically underserved and underrepresented K-12 youth in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), NASA SEMMA has inspired, engaged and educated over 450,000 students, families, and teachers in as many as 18 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands;

Whereas, established in 1993 as a joint venture between NASA Glenn Research Center and Cuyahoga Community College, NASA SEMMA has grown from a single site started in Cleveland, Ohio by former Congressman, the Honorable Louis Stokes, to a national organization that is supported by a network of 200+ partners and stakeholders dedicated to improving the academic success of children nationwide. Today, NASA SEMMA can be found at 14 sites located in 11 states and the District of Columbia serving the educational needs in my district and other urban and rural districts. NASA SEMMA site locations include community colleges, four-year colleges and universities. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), elementary and secondary schools, science centers and museums;

Whereas, NASA SEMMA harnesses the collective resources of NASA, institutions of higher education, science centers, museums, and primary and secondary schools to bridge the education gap for historically underserved and underrepresented K-12 youth in STEM. America is facing a serious shortage of young people entering STEM fields today. This fact, coupled with the high-tech workforce needs of the 21st Century and the lagging test scores indicating a lack of STEM proficiency amongst the next generation of leaders and explorers, poses a bleak picture of an America left behind. SEMMA is addressing this critical need by increasing K-12 student exposure and interest in STEM by delivering three core components, a K-12 hands-on/minds-on curriculum, a state-of-the-art Aerospace Education Laboratory (AEL) and an innovative Family Café;

Whereas, the inquiry based classroom curriculum is aligned with national standards, and encompasses the research and technology of each of NASA's four Mission Directorates. NASA SEMMA graduates who have participated in the entire K-12 curriculum will have completed 441 hours of advanced studies in STEM prior to their enrollment in a post-secondary institution. The AEL is a state-of-the-art, electronically enhanced, computerized classroom that puts cutting-edge technology at the fingertips of NASA SEMMA middle and high school students. The AEL consists of ten computerized research stations that provide NASA SEMMA students with real-life aerospace challenges involving science, engineering, mathematics, and NASA technology. The Family Café is an interactive forum that provides STEM education and parenting information to parents, guardians, relatives and any supportive, adult role models that the student might have;

Whereas, the NASA SEMMA program has been ranked as a 2007 Innovations in American Government Award Finalist. NASA SEMMA shares this honor with 17 distinguished projects, which collectively represent the top 2% of applicants for this prestigious national award. The award is sponsored by the Harvard University John F.

Kennedy School of Government's Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation, and is funded by the Ford Foundation. The purpose of the Innovations in American Government Award Program is to strengthen American democracy by increasing public trust. The annual awards competition recognizes programs that provide concrete evidence that government can work to improve the quality of life for citizens. Of special significance is the fact that NASA SEMMA was the only educational initiative to be recognized as a 2007 finalist. NASA SEMMA's success in elevating the education of America's youth to this platform is profound; a platform that addresses such critical issues as fostering renewable energy, improving health care access, promoting affordable housing, and fourteen other extraordinary and deserving innovations; and

Whereas, we the members of the Congressional Black Caucus extend our sincere appreciation and congratulations to the NASA SEMMA program as well as to their participants and partners; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we celebrate and honor NASA SEMMA as one of the Nation's premier K-12 STEM educational programs; be it finally

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be presented to the Education Office at NASA Headquarters, Educational Programs Office at NASA Glenn Research Center and the National SEMMA Office.

RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 11 AS A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

SPEECH OF

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2007

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be in Washington, DC on September 10, 2007 when the House considered H. Res. 643, commemorating the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 866.

It is hard to believe that 6 years have passed since that fateful day when terrorists struck the World Trade Center in my district in New York, and hijacked planes that crashed into the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania. September 11th exposed significant vulnerabilities in our homeland security, and much of the last 6 years has been spent trying to fill these holes and make us more secure.

I am proud of the progress we have made to address homeland security. Earlier this year, Congress passed H.R. 1 finally implementing all of the 9/11 Commission recommendations. Included in that bill was a provision I championed to fill the gaps in our port security system. This provision requires that within five years every shipping container must be scanned before coming to the United States so that terrorists cannot smuggle deadly weapons into this country through our ports. H.R. 1 also created a new rail and transit security program, increased risk-based homeland security grant funding, included measures to secure loose nuclear material overseas, and required 100 percent screening of air cargo.

Despite the progress that has been made, we still have not fulfilled our moral obligation to the victims of the September 11th terrorist attack, which includes not just the people who

live and work and go to school in the area around Ground Zero, but also the emergency response workers who came from all over the country to aid in the recovery and who are now sick as a result of exposure to World Trade Center toxic dust.

This week, I, along with Congresswoman MALONEY and Congressman FOSSELLA introduced essential, new legislation that ensures that everyone exposed to World Trade Center toxins, no matter where they may live now or in the future, would have a right to high-quality medical monitoring and treatment, and access to a re-opened Victim Compensation Fund for their losses. Whether you are a first responder who toiled without proper protection; or an area resident, worker or student who was caught in the plume or subject to ongoing indoor contamination; if you were harmed by 9/11, you would be eligible. This bill builds on the best ideas brought to Congress thus far and on the infrastructure already in place providing critical treatment and monitoring.

What is also troubling is that 6 years have passed, and the Environmental Protection Agency has yet to conduct a comprehensive testing and cleanup program to remove World Trade Center dust from area buildings. A recent GAO report confirms the horrible reality that to this day, due to their negligence and inaction, the EPA cannot say with certainty that even a single building in the area is free of World Trade Center contamination. As such, we cannot know how many more people will become sick because of lingering environmental toxins in their homes, workplaces and schools. The Administration must act immediately to design and implement a new, proper testing and cleaning program.

For many of us, the effects of 9/11 are always present in our hearts and minds. But I hope that the 9/11 anniversary will serve as a reminder to others that we must fulfill our moral obligation to remove the threat of 9/11 contamination and to provide health care for those who are sick as a result of it. My colleagues and I will not stop fighting until this obligation is met.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 879, I actually attempted to vote with a malfunctioning voting card. I was present and on the floor. I would have voted "yes."

EXPANDING AMERICAN HOMEOWNERSHIP ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1852) to modernize and update the National Housing Act and enable the Federal Housing Administra-

tion to use risk-based pricing to more effectively reach underserved borrowers, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of the Expanding American Homeownership Act. Homeowners in Colorado and nationwide are facing a crisis and passage of this bill will ensure continued access to responsible, safe, and affordable mortgage options.

There are serious problems with our country's mortgage lending market. Foreclosure rates are rising, housing prices are stagnating and too many Americans are surprised to find their monthly payments on the rise. While the difficulties in the lending market have so far been concentrated in subprime loans, which generally go to borrowers with limited or damaged credit, these problems have caused serious and sometimes irreparable economic damage to families and communities of all income levels throughout the Nation.

I am pleased that this legislation modernizes the Federal Housing Administration, FHA, to provide lower monthly payments for borrowers who make on-time payments, raises the loan limits on FHA loans and allows the FHA to vary premiums based on their credit risk. These provisions, among others, will allow consumers to choose a more reliable mortgage as opposed to other mortgages that could impose excessive rates and fees, prepayment penalties, and reset terms that can result in exorbitant interest rate increases.

While this bill is not a complete fix for the problem, it is an important step in the right direction. It is vital to provide FHA with the flexibility to respond to the mortgage crisis to help families in Colorado and the Nation to retain and purchase a home. I urge a "yea" vote.

IN MEMORY OF MELVIN SCHEXNAYDER

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my dear friend Melvin Schexnayder of Dumas, AR, who passed away September 12, 2007, at the age of 87.

Melvin Schexnayder spent his lifetime dedicated to his family, his community and the newspaper business. After returning from World War II and completing a degree in chemical engineering, he went to work for Texas Pacific Railroad. However, the job forced him to travel frequently, which kept him away from his wife. For the sake of spending more time together, the two decided to try their hand in the newspaper business. His wife Charlotte, a journalism major, served as the editor and Melvin served as the advertising manager. What they thought would be a 1-year experiment working at the McGehee Semi-Weekly Times, uncovered a passion for reporting news that turned into a lifelong career path for both of them. After working at the Times, they bought their own newspaper, the Dumas Clarion, near Charlotte's hometown of Tillar. With the Schexnayders working as a team, the Dumas Clarion won over 500 State and national awards for its excellence in journalism.

If owning and publishing a weekly newspaper was not a big enough task, Melvin de-

voted his life selflessly to serve others for the sake of making Dumas and Desha County a better place to live and raise a family. He was an active participant in the community where he served as president of the Dumas Chamber of Commerce and the Dumas Lion's Club, and just this year, he was awarded the esteemed Lion's Club Citizenship Award. He held the post of chairman of the Desha County Hospital Board and served as chairman of the Chicot-Desha Boy Scout District. He also worked in numerous roles with the Red Cross and March of Dimes over the years.

In addition to his civic leadership, Schexnayder was also a man of devout faith. He was a member of Holy Child Catholic Church where he served as a lay reader and building committee member.

I give my deepest condolences to his wife, Charlotte; his two sons, M. John Schexnayder, Jr. and Dr. Stephen Schexnayder; his daughter Sarah Steen; and to his numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Melvin Schexnayder will be greatly missed in Dumas, Desha County and throughout the State of Arkansas, and I am truly saddened by this loss.

TRIBUTE TO HARRY "MOO" MOORE

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the induction of Harry "Moo" Moore into the West Virginia University Athletic Hall of Fame. A standout on the men's basketball team, Moore joins a distinguished collection of student-athletes continuing West Virginia University's rich athletic tradition.

Moore perfected his soft shooting touch by practicing in the dark on a basket outside his family's home. During his three seasons, Moore averaged seven points per game, leading the Mountaineers to a 60-20 record and a Southern Conference Championship in 1951. Impressively, his 84 percent free throw percentage still remains second on the all-time Mountaineer record books.

After college Moore was drafted by the Syracuse Nationals of the National Basketball Association but opted to serve as a lieutenant in the Army infantry. Nonetheless, Moore continued to excel on the basketball court. In 1954 he was selected to play in the Armed Forces Pan Am Games in Mexico and the International Games in Germany.

Although his playing days are long over, Moore's legacy on the court continues to grow. The State of West Virginia congratulates "Moo" and the rest of the 2007 Hall of Fame inductees.

"WE DON'T SERVE TEENS"

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the "We Don't Serve Teens," national campaign to fight underage drinking.

As Members of Congress, we have a responsibility to do everything in our power to protect teens from the dangers of alcohol abuse.

The "We Don't Serve Teens" will raise awareness of the important role retailers and private citizens play in making sure alcohol is not accessible to teenagers. Their website, www.dontserveteens.gov, clearly outlines the proactive measures we can all take to limit teens' access to alcohol. This will ensure a safer environment that is free of the unnecessary dangers of alcohol, including binge drinking, and drunk driving.

I believe we should applaud the alcohol wholesalers, brewers, distillers, their advertisement agencies, and the private and State-owned retailers for their willingness to cooperate and support this cause. Without their assistance it would be very difficult to get this campaign off the ground.

The FTC is successfully uniting all adults in one organized effort that agrees not to serve those under the legal drinking age. I wholeheartedly support this movement and hope to be an advocate for "We Don't Serve Teens." If we can all understand the benefits of the drinking age and believe it when we say, "We Don't Serve Teens. It's unsafe, illegal and irresponsible," we will create a safer today and a more responsible tomorrow. Please join me in supporting the "We Don't Serve Teens" effort.

TRIBUTE TO GIL MORGAN

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate one of Oklahoma's own Gil Morgan, for his first-place finish at the 2007 Champions Tour Wal-Mart First Tee Open.

Gil's victory at Pebble Beach is quite an accomplishment in and of itself, but I am proud to say that he is no stranger to the winner's podium. During his career in the world of golf, Gil has amassed nearly 40 championship wins. In fact, Gil had managed to claim his first professional victory of his 35-year career when he succeeded in winning the PGA Tour's 1977 B.C. Open. His career also reflects six other PGA Tour wins, including the Danny Thomas Memphis Classic in 1979 and the Kemper Open in 1990. More impressive is Gil's 25 Champions tour wins, which include the 2003 Kroger Classic, the 2006 Allianz Championship, and his most recent feat at the Wal-Mart First Tee Open.

While many around the nation know Gil as a professional golf champion whose career has taken him around the world, those of us from Oklahoma know him as one of our own. It all started for Gil in the small town of Wewoka, Oklahoma. From Wewoka, Gil went on to graduate from East Central State College in Ada, Oklahoma before earning his Doctor of Optometry from Southern College of Optometry in 1972. A short while after completion of his education, Gil began his long and illustrious career as a professional golfer.

Madam Speaker, I think that Gil's story is an inspiring one and provides many good lessons for the rest of us to follow. First, it doesn't matter where you begin in life. With a little effort and determination, we can all accomplish

victories in our lives. Second, I see Gil's determination to finish both an undergraduate degree and a doctoral degree before beginning his professional sporting career to be an inspiration to both young and old. Some of us may have extraordinary talents, such as golf, that we are born in possession of; however, knowledge is something that cannot be taken away should our talents fail us. While Gil's talent as a professional golfer has never failed him, he has always had the comfort of his education to fall back upon should he need to do so.

For these reasons, Madam Speaker, I am proud to salute Gil Morgan and I join with all of my fellow Oklahomans in giving him praise and congratulations for his most recent accomplishment at the Wal-Mart First Tee Open at Pebble Beach. As you know, Oklahoma is usually known for its love of football; however, on Sunday, September 2, 2007, we were all golf fans because of Gil.

PURPOSES OF THE FOREIGN TAX CREDIT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to correct an outdated tax law that is forcing a husband and wife of almost 30 years from my district to live thousands of miles apart during what should be the golden years of their retirement together. In introducing this legislation, however, I seek to not only assist my constituents who have brought this inequity to my attention, but also to assist any other families facing the same problem.

Madam Speaker, I first introduced this legislation during the 109th Congress. I also had an opportunity to testify before the House Ways and Means Committee, Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures last Congress. Unfortunately that was as far as my bill progressed.

Today, however, I introduce this legislation with great optimism for, and a continued commitment to, its passage. At issue is what I believe is an outdated provision of the tax code that is preventing one of my constituents, Mrs. Novella Wheaton Nied, a U.S. citizen and native New Mexican, from enjoying her retirement years with her husband Veit Nied, a German citizen.

The Nields have been married almost 30 years and have lived overseas in various countries for the length of their marriage until September 2001. Mr. Nied, an economist, retired in September 2001 from the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium. The couple decided to return to Taos, New Mexico, Novella's home, for their retirement years, but learned upon Veit's approval of permanent resident status in the United States that his pension from the European Commission would be subject to double taxation—the initial tax by the European Commission, and again by the U.S. should he choose to make his residency here.

Double taxation on his pension will create a hardship for the Nields in their retirement—both financially and emotionally. As a result, Mr. Nied did not accept the permanent resident status and has been traveling back and

forth between Germany and the United States, being very cognizant and diligent about following U.S. immigration and taxation laws, and therefore has not stayed longer than 120 days per annum in the United States, which would render him liable for taxes in this country. This unfortunate living situation has been ongoing since 2001 when they learned of the double taxation and have been seeking a solution that would allow them to once again live together.

The United States has tax agreements with many countries to prevent double taxation, as well as provisions in the tax code that allow resident aliens who pay taxes to a foreign country to claim the foreign tax credit that reduces their U.S. income taxes. Unfortunately, the EU does not qualify as a foreign country for purposes of the foreign tax credit.

The bill I introduce today amends the Internal Revenue Code to treat employment taxes paid to the European Union by employees of the European Union as income taxes paid to a foreign country, for purposes of the foreign tax credit. This bill will allow Mr. Nied, and others in his situation, to qualify for the foreign tax credit.

This is a simple bill that brings a section of the tax code up to date with the changes in international political institutions. While it certainly will help Mr. and Mrs. Nied, this legislation will also help other families who face the same situation. The sooner we pass this legislation, the sooner the Nields, and others, can be reunited and enjoy their retirement years in the company of their loved ones.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARMY SERGEANT NICK PATTERSON OF ROCHESTER, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage, humility, compassion and selflessness of U.S. Army Sergeant Nicholas Patterson, native son of Rochester, Indiana. A member of the 1st Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Nick was killed on September 10, 2007 following a raid in western Baghdad in a tragic accident involving the armored truck in which Nick was riding. Nearing the end of the most dangerous assignment of his second deployment to Iraq, Nick left us to mourn a life lived to the fullest.

Like many people in the Army, Nick was a skilled athlete. A 2001 graduate of Rochester High School, he led his basketball team in scoring his senior year and played second base for the baseball team, proudly wearing number ten in both sports. His former teacher, Rob Malchow, said, "Nick had such an outgoing personality. He had so much energy that you had to get to know him."

When Nick joined the army shortly after graduation from high school, he set his sights on being a paratrooper. He was thrilled to be part of the storied 82nd Airborne Division and treasured the camaraderie of his men, his brothers. His widow, Jayme, said Nick was "very, very proud to be in the unit he was in," which he described as "high-speed." Fellow soldier Sgt. Blake Bagby noted, "Nick could

always be counted on to pick you up and make you smile. His concern for his soldiers and friends will be missed by all."

Nick and Jayme shared their love with a four-year-old son, Reilly, and he valued the daily contact with his family by phone, e-mail, and even Web cam. If nothing else, he made sure to e-mail Jayme every day, and even if it was short, he said what mattered, "I love you."

Nick was also close to his father, Jim, whom he affectionately called Pops. Father and son shared a love of the Chicago Cubs, the Indianapolis Colts, Indiana University basketball and fishing in Nyona Lake. Sharing in the grief of their loss are Nick's mother and stepfather, Jane and Scott Holmes, his stepmother Virginia Patterson, sister, Tai Johnson, and stepbrother Kyle McLochlin as well as the close knit community of Rochester.

According to Nick's family, the Army helped him grow up, become more focused, and develop into a leader who earned admiration for his toughness, yet showed compassion. His father noted that Nick didn't want to be a hero to anybody, except for his son and his family. Today, I recognize Nick as a hero to us all, a brave man, respected by his peers, loved by his family and friends, devoted to his duty. Jim expressed it well, "I'm just so proud. He's a hero. But it hurts." I echo those words as I recognize the honor the Nation holds for Nick, yet at the same time, acknowledge our grief. May God bless Nick, his family, his fellow soldiers, and his fellow countrymen as we share this collective sorrow.

IN MEMORY OF DR. MARY ESTHER
GAULDEN JAGGER

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Dr. Mary Esther Gaulden Jagger from Highland Village, Texas in the 26th Congressional District of Texas. Dr. Jagger passed away September 1, 2007 from Alzheimer's disease complications. She was 86 years of age.

Mary Esther Gaulden Jagger was a scholarly woman who earned a bachelor's of science degree from Winthrop College and a doctorate in biology from the University of Virginia.

Dr. Jagger began working in 1949 at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee as a senior radiation biologist. The Jagger's relocated to Dallas from Tennessee in the mid-1960s, where Ms. Jagger took a position as professor of radiology at UT Southwestern Medical Center. She officially retired in 1992, but continued to visit her office until 2004.

Mary Esther Gaulden Jagger helped found the National Organization for Women in 1966. She was president of the Association of Southeastern Biologists in 1959. She was also a member of the Committee on Toxicology and the U.S. National Research Council, as well as being involved in the Radiation Research Society and the Environmental Mutagen Society.

I know from my time in residency at Parkland Hospital, that Dr. Jagger was revered as

an expert. When in doubt or if any questions arose, you could always turn to the wisdom of Dr. Jagger.

While this woman was an accomplished biologist and successful author of scientific literature, she always made her family a priority. Relatives will remember her most for her personality and her devotion to her family.

Dr. Jagger is survived by her husband, children, and three grandchildren. It was my honor to represent Dr. Mary Esther Gaulden Jagger, and I extend my deepest sympathies to her family and friends. She will be deeply missed.

PATENT REFORM ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1908) to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform:

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my opposition to H.R. 1908—the Patent Reform Act of 2007. I do so reluctantly, and hope to work with my colleagues when this bill moves to conference to produce a final product that will adequately address the concerns of all sectors of our innovation economy.

As the Representative of the 8th Congressional District of Massachusetts, I feel immensely privileged to represent many of the nation's leading innovators. The 8th District is home to some of the best institutions of higher learning in the nation, teaching hospitals, high tech businesses, financial services firms, and biotechnology companies big and small. I recognize how absolutely vital the strength and efficiency of our patent system is to each of them and I take the reform of that system very seriously.

H.R. 1908 is the most comprehensive update to the patent system in generations. The bill makes changes to our patent system that are important to improving the business environment for many sectors of our economy. However, the bill also alters our current system in a way that could potentially prove damaging to other sectors. I oppose this legislation reluctantly because the committee, in particular Chairman BERMAN, has worked diligently to improve this legislation at every stage.

I was very pleased, for example, to see the in the manager's amendment wording to strike the "prior use" sections of the bill. This change was important to ensuring that those who infringe on patents continue to have to meet a reasonable threshold if they assert a "prior use" defense. I was also pleased that the bill as reported from committee eliminated the "second window" of review after patents are granted. While this section may need additional changes, significant progress has been made to improve it.

I remain concerned, however, about the ramifications of the damages section of H.R. 1908. While I understand that the Chairman and the Committee have made several improvements to this section as well, as it is currently constituted in the bill the damages sec-

tion will unnecessarily elevate apportionment as a method of determining damages when a patent has been infringed. This provision could produce devastating consequences for some innovators. I believe we must be cautious when implementing such a serious change, and that ensuring flexibility is of paramount importance.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee in order to produce the most balanced Patent Reform bill possible.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, September 18, 2007, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted "Aye" on rollcall No. 873.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RADCLIFFE KILLAM

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Radcliffe Killam, one of the greatest members of the community of Laredo, Texas, who passed away at the age of 97 on September 8, 2007.

Mr. Radcliffe Killam was born on July 1, 1910, to Oliver Winfield and Harriet Smith Killam in Grove, Oklahoma. He came to Laredo with his family when he was nine years old. His father established the Mirando Oil Company in South Texas, which would later become Killam Oil Company under the leadership of his son, Radcliffe. Mr. Killam grew up working on oil rigs, and attended Laredo High School. He then received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin and earned a law degree from Harvard Law School in 1935. During World War II, Radcliffe was among those in the greatest generation to answer the call of duty by serving in the U.S. Naval Service overseas in the Atlantic and then in the Pacific.

When the war was over, Mr. Killam returned back to his oil business in Laredo, Texas, with his wife, the former Sue Spivey of Bonham, Texas, whom he had married in 1942. He was extensively involved in the community, and served on the boards and councils of banks, foundations, and educational institutions such as Texas A&M International University whose founding he had helped make possible through his donation of 300 acres for the campus. Mr. Killam truly believed that education was the key to success for the future of the community in Laredo, and endeavored through his various partnerships with TAMIU to ensure the continued success of TAMIU in South Texas. Mr. Killam also extended his philanthropic interests to Mercy Hospital in Laredo, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, and to the South Texas Health Sciences Center.

Mr. Killam was also known for his love of the outdoors. He owned several large ranches, and implemented a game management program which allowed hunters to hunt wild game on his ranch. The City of Laredo benefited a great deal from the philanthropy of Mr. Killam. He left behind a remarkable legacy that continues to inspire those who knew and loved him. Mr. Radcliffe Killam truly led by example and it is to his credit that Laredo has advanced a great deal as one of the leading trade ports and economies in South Texas, with more opportunities for higher education for the youth of the community due to his investments in TAMU.

Mr. Killam is survived by his wife, Sue, of sixty-five years, his son David and his wife, Hayley, his daughter, Adrian Kathleen, his daughter Tracy DiLeo and her husband, Michael, and four grandsons, Radcliffe Killam II, David Killam, Nicholas and Joseph DiLeo. Mr. Killam was preceded in death by his daughter Terry Killam Wilber, his brother Winfield Killam, and his sister Patricia Louise Killam Hurd.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have this time to recognize Mr. Radcliffe Killam, and I thank you for this time.

UPON THE RETIREMENT OF
LARRY WEISS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Larry Weiss upon his retirement following nearly forty years of service to build and advance Bowling Green State University.

Most recently, Larry has served as Bowling Green's Vice President for University Relations and Governmental Affairs. He has worked closely with the university's presidents, including its current President, Dr. Sidney Ribeau, always demonstrating honesty, skill, and integrity. During his career, Larry met notables such as Bob Hope, Red Skelton, and Doc Severinsen, but never failed to treat all people with equanimity—affording respect to students, university staff, families, and visitors alike.

A native of Canton, Ohio, Larry graduated from Bowling Green State University in 1967 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Journalism and a specialization in public relations. Following graduation, he began his business career in the Press Relations Department of Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company in Toledo.

In 1973, Larry returned to his alma mater as Assistant Director of Alumni Affairs where he undertook a \$2.2 million campaign to build an alumni center on campus. Five years later, he was promoted to Director of Alumni Affairs. In 1998, Larry incorporated state government relations into his job responsibilities while still serving as alumni director. In August, 2000, he moved to the President's Office where he continued to serve the President and the community.

During his tenure in the Alumni Office, Larry served as chair of the University's 7th Anniversary celebration. He was one of three alumni administrators in the United States selected by the Asian Institute of Management for travel to Manila, Philippines to train Filipino educators. He also served as host of a weekly television show called "Time Out" on the local PBS affiliate.

In addition to his responsibilities at BGSU, Larry served on the boards of trustees for the Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce, the Bowling Green Community Development Foundation and the United Way of Greater Toledo. He is also a University representative on the Toledo Symphony Board.

One of Larry's avocations is baseball. As an 18-year-old standout, he had a scheduled tryout for the Baltimore Orioles organization. It appeared as though Larry was destined to be a professional baseball player. However, the week before his tryout, he broke his wrist and was unable to tryout. With a broken wrist, his life path changed and he decided to go to college at Bowling Green State University. At BGSU he fell in love and married Frances Greiger and also fell in love with BGSU. Not only has the marriage thrived in 42 years, but Larry's love for baseball still continues. Since 1995 Larry has played in an adult baseball league and annually plays in the Legends of Baseball League in Cooperstown, New York. This past August, Larry was inducted into the Legends of Baseball Hall of Fame.

His family jokes that while on family vacations in other states people would recognize Larry—"Larry Weiss, Bowling Green State University" and his relationship with Bowling Green State University will continue. He will lead the University's 100th anniversary celebration.

Upon Larry Weiss' official retirement from Bowling Green State University, I wish him time to spend with family and friends doing that which he most enjoys as he travels this new road of life. We know that his lifetime of dedication to building Bowling Green State University into one of the largest recognized universities in the state will not end with retirement. Let us express to Larry and his family our sincerest gratitude and Godspeed in the years ahead.

HONORING WILLIAM MURDOCK
AND ELBEN CHARITIES

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional service of a most distinguished constituent, William Murdock. Mr. Murdock serves as Executive Director of the Eblen Charities and Eblen Center for Social Enterprise, an Asheville-based non-profit organization that assists low-income children, adults, and families battling illnesses and disabilities.

Mr. Murdock is a graduate of Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College, Mars Hill College, Duke University, and the Harvard Business School. Along with his work at Eblen Charities, Mr. Murdock lectures at Duke University and has been named an outstanding scholar in social enterprise by the International Biographical Centre of Cambridge, England.

Growing up in Asheville, North Carolina, Mr. Murdock developed a passion for wrestling which he pursued as a student-athlete and then as a high school coach. He is widely regarded as one of wrestling's preeminent historians and was most recently honored as the first recipient of the Lou Thesz World Heavyweight Championship Award. The award recognizes an individual connected with wrestling who has "taken the skills, courage and mental toughness that are the essentials of the sport and has applied those characteristics to the realm of public service." In nearly two decades of service at the Eblen Charities, Mr. Murdock has done that and more.

Under his leadership, Eblen Charities has grown from a two-person partnership that assisted 300 families in 1991 to a world-class organization that served 65,000 in 2006. Mr. Murdock currently oversees roughly 60 programs designed to help families in western North Carolina secure health care coverage, low-cost prescription drugs, heating and cooling for their homes, and other life essentials. In so doing, Mr. Murdock delivers hope in trying times and the wherewithal to meet whatever challenges might lie ahead.

His example serves to remind us that a single individual, armed with compassion, ingenuity, and resolve, can do extraordinary things. I am honored to represent Mr. Murdock in the United States Congress, and I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding his outstanding work.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 20, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 24

- 3 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold an oversight hearing to examine scientific assessments of the impacts of global climate change on wildfire activity in the United States.
SD-366

SEPTEMBER 25

- 9:30 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine two years after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, focusing on housing needs in the Gulf Coast.
SD-538
- Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine strengthening the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA).
SD-226
- Veterans' Affairs
To hold oversight hearings to examine Persian Gulf War research.
SD-562
- 10 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine S. 1756, to provide supplemental ex gratia compensation to the Republic of the Marshall Islands for impacts of the nuclear testing program of the United States.
SD-366
- Finance
To hold hearings to examine home and community based care, focusing on expanding options for long-term care.
SD-G50
- 2 p.m.
Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine green jobs created by global warming initiatives.
SD-406

- 2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the digital television transition, focusing on government and industry perspectives.
SR-253
- Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of David T. Johnson, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs), P. Robert Fannin, of Arizona, to be Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, and Paul E. Simons, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Chile.
SD-419
- Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine pending judicial nominations.
SD-226

SEPTEMBER 26

- 9:30 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the role and impact of credit ratings agencies on the subprime credit markets.
SD-538
- Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine the impacts of global warming on the Chesapeake Bay.
SD-406
- 10 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine S. 1543, to establish a national geothermal initiative to encourage increased production of energy from geothermal resources.
SD-366
- Finance
To hold hearings to examine offshore tax issues, focusing on reinsurance and hedge funds.
SD-215
- Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Business meeting to consider the nomination of Julie L. Myers, of Kansas, to be Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.
SD-342
- Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine improving internet access to help small business compete in a global economy.
SR-428A

- 2:30 p.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael J. Sullivan, of Massachusetts, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.
SD-226

SEPTEMBER 27

- 9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine hard-rock mining on federal lands.
SD-366
- Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Paul J. Hutter, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.
SD-562

- 10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine congestion and delays impacting travelers, focusing on possible solutions.
SR-253
- 2 p.m.
Judiciary
Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the Google-DoubleClick merger and the online advertising industry, focusing on the risks for competition and privacy.
SD-226
- 2:30 p.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (T.Doc.103-39).
SD-419

- Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine S. 128, to amend the Cache La Poudre River Corridor Act to designate a new management entity, make certain technical and conforming amendments, enhance private property protections, S. 148, to establish the Paterson Great Falls National Park in the State of New Jersey, S. 189, to decrease the matching funds requirements and authorize additional appropriations for Keweenaw National Historical Park in the State of Michigan, S. 697, to establish the Steel Industry National Historic Site in the State of Pennsylvania, S. 1341, to provide for the exchange of certain Bureau of Land Management land in Pima County, Arizona, S. 1476, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct special resources study of the Tule Lake Segregation Center in Modoc County, California, to determine suitability and feasibility of establishing a unit of the National Park System, S. 867, to adjust the boundary of Lowell National Historical Park, S. 1709 and H.R. 1239, bills to amend the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998 to provide additional staff and oversight of funds to carry out the Act, S. 1808, to authorize the exchange of certain land in Denali National Park in the State of Alaska, and S. 1969, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating Estate Grange and other sites related to Alexander Hamilton's life on the island of St. Croix in the United States Virgin Islands as a unit of the National Park System.
SD-366

OCTOBER 2

- 10 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine issues and challenges facing current mine safety disasters.
SD-430